

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5080

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 07115

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SP, US
SUBJECT: MORE ON COVERAGE OF TODMAN PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: MADRID 7101

DEPT PASS USICA

1. THE ONLY SATURDAY MORNING (JUNE 24) FOLLOW-UP COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S REPORTED NEW YORK REMARKS (REFTEL) APPEARED IN CONSERVATIVE SENSATIONALIST "EL IMPARCIAL," WHICH OBVIOUSLY FELT COMPELLED TO SAY SOMETHING, SINCE IT WAS THE ONLY MADRID DAILY THAT MADE NO MENTION OF THE STATEMENTS ON JUNE 23. THE RELATIVELY SHORT "IMPARCIAL" PIECE, HEADLINED "WHAT IS THE U.S. UP TO?" WAS BASICALLY A REHASH OF THE OTHER PAPERS' JUNE 23 COVERAGE. CONCERNING THE AMBASSADOR'S REPORTED STATEMENT ON A POSSIBLE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT, "IMPARCIAL" SAID TODMAN "...STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS DISPOSED TO COLLABORATE WITH ALL THE GOVERNMENTS THE SPANISH PEOPLE MAY ELECT, INCLUDING A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT, IF IT IS ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY." EXCEPT FOR THE IMPLIED COMMENT IN THE LEAD-IN, "IMPARCIAL" OFFERS NO OTHER OPINION ON THIS OR ANY OTHER REMARK BY THE AMBASSADOR.

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2. WE HAVE AS YET RECEIVED NO PRESS QUERIES ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR'S REPORTED STATEMENTS ON THE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN, BUT THE BASIC QUESTIONS REMAIN AND CERTAINLY WILL ARISE AGAIN UNTIL ANSWERED. THE CHARGE DOUBTLESS WILL BE FACED WITH QUESTIONS THIS EVENING FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND

DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AT THE KING'S NAME DAY RECEPTION.

3. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE INTEND TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS BY SAYING, DRAWING ON STATE 8082 AND PREVIOUS, THAT THE USG POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED. IT ALSO WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE US POSITION WERE REAFFIRMED IN WASHINGTON. EATON

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